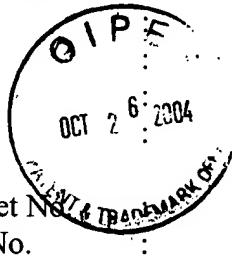


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. Serial No. : 09/731,418
Applicants : Manczak, et al.
Filed : December 5, 2000
Art Unit : 2171
Examiner : Nguyen, Thanh T.
Atty. Docket No. : 2502863-991140
Customer No. : 26379



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OCT 29 2004

Technology Center 2100

Title: SYMMETRICAL SHARED STORAGE SYSTEM

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: M/S AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on:

Date: October 22, 2004 Signature



Jan Huss

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir/Madam:

Applicants respond to the outstanding Office action mailed on April 22, 2004 as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.